IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA EASTERN DIVISION No. 4:19-CV-00111

WILLIAM HARRIS and) JOINT MOTION AND
PHYLLIS HARRIS,) STIPULATION TO AMEND THE
,) SCHEDULING ORDER AND STAY
Plaintiffs,) DISCOVERY AS TO DEFENDANT
,) MARY JANE VANDERBURG
VS.	
)
MARY JANE VANDERBURG,	
DOUGLAS MATTHEW	
GURKINS, REMCO EAST, INC.,)
and MARY GRACE BISHOP,	
)
Defendants.)
	,)

The parties hereby move for and stipulate to issuance of an amended scheduling order (ECF 49) extending current litigation deadlines by 28 days. A proposed order is lodged as an attachment to this joint motion and emailed to chambers.

Pursuant to Rule 16(b)(4) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, there is good cause to grant this motion for the following reasons:

<u>First</u>, it is timely since it seeks to extend deadlines that have not yet expired. Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(b)(1)(A).

Second, all represented parties join in this motion.

Third, the parties learned last week and confirmed today that Jonathan

Bridgers, attorney for defendant Mary Jane Vanderburg, passed away unexpectedly on January 31, 2020. The parties believe that as a result of his death, Ms. Vanderburg will need time to retain new counsel who will need to appear in this action on her behalf.

<u>Fourth</u>, to avoid prejudice to Ms. Vanderburg, the parties move for issuance of the following order:

- The deadlines set in the Court's last scheduling order be extended by
 28 days. The proposed order reflects the new dates and deadlines;
 and,
- That any discovery or motion that requires a response by Ms.
 Vanderburg be stayed for 28 days to enable her time to locate new counsel.

<u>Fifth</u>, no pretrial conference or trial date has been set by the Court in this action.

Accordingly, there is good cause to grant this motion continuing the

litigation deadlines listed in the scheduling order (ECF 49) by 28 days and staying any responses to motions or discovery that may be due from Ms. Vanderburg for 28 days.

SO STIPULATED.

Dated: February 13, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kelly Anne Clarke

Kelly Anne Clarke Legal Aid of North Carolina 2101 Angier Avenue, Suite 300

Durham, NC 27703 Fax: (919) 861-1887 kellyc@legalaidnc.org

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

/s/ W. Gregory Duke

W. Gregory Duke 119 W. Fourth Street Greenville, NC 27858 Fax: (252) 758-4080

thedukelowfirmne@gmai

thedukelawfirmnc@gmail.com

Attorney for Defendant Douglas Matthew Gurkins

/s/ Christopher Brancart

Christopher Brancart Brancart & Brancart

P.O. Box 686

Pescadero, CA 94060 Tel: (650) 879-0141 Fax: (650) 879-1103 cbrancart@brancart.com

CA Bar 128475

[By Special Appearance]

/s/ Spencer Beard

Spencer Beard

McAngus Goudelock & Courie

Post Office Box 12327 Wilmington, NC 28405 Fax: (910) 920-9157

spencer.beard@mgclaw.com

Attorney for Defendants Remco East, Inc. and Mary Grace Bishop

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Rule 5 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on February 13, 2020, I served by email via the ECF system a copy of the attached document – **JOINT MOTION AND STIPULATION TO AMEND THE SCHEDULING ORDER AND STAY DISCOVERY AS TO DEFENDANT MARY JANE VANDERBURG** – upon the following attorneys:

Kelly Anne Clarke Legal Aid of North Carolina 2101 Angier Avenue, Suite 300 Durham, NC 27703 Fax: (919) 861-1887 kellyc@legalaidnc.org THE BRIDGERS LAW FIRM, P.A Jonathan Bridgers 625 Lynndale Court, Suite C Greenville, NC 27858 Telephone: 252-227-4782 Fax: 252-227-4654

jonathan@thebridgerslawfirm.com

Ayanda Dowtin Meachem Legal Aid of North Carolina P.O. Box 564 Ahoskie, NC 27910

Fax: (252) 332-3317 ayandam@legalaidnc.org

[For Vanderburg]

Walt Rapp Spencer Beard McAngus Goudelock & Courie Post Office Box 12327 Wilmington, NC 28405 Fax: (910) 920-9157 walt.rapp@mgclaw.com spencer.beard@mgclaw.com

[For Remco East and Bishop]

Luis Juan Pinto Legal Aid of North Carolina Post Office Box 7283 Greenville, North Carolina 27835

Fax: (252) 758-1843 luisp@legalaidnc.org

W. Gregory Duke 119 W. Fourth Street Greenville, NC 27858 Fax: (252) 758-4080

thedukelawfirmnc@gmail.com

[For Gurkins]

/s/ Christopher Brancart